

FACT SHEET



Ralston Site Cedar Rapids, Iowa

June 1999

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA will hold a public meeting Tuesday, July 6, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Water Department, 1111 Shaver Road, NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to you on the proposed plan.

EPA is asking for comments on the proposed plan. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public meeting or can be mailed to the address listed below. The 30-day comment period opens July 1, 1999, and closes August 2, 1999.

Written comments (post-marked no later than August 2, 1999), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed plan with a preferred alternative to address soil and ground water contamination at the Ralston Superfund site, 228 Blairs Ferry Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. EPA is taking comments on the proposed alternative until August 2, 1999.

After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, EPA will make a decision on how to address the contaminated soil and ground water. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

From 1956 to the mid-1960s, Rockwell International (Rockwell) operated an industrial landfill at the 1½ acre site. Rockwell buried and/or disposed of solvents, paint sludge, refuse and drums containing concrete-encapsulated cyanide salts.

In December 1991, Rockwell signed an agreement with EPA to investigate the extent of soil and ground water contamination at the site and identify alternatives to address the contamination. While this investigation was under way, Rockwell entered into another agreement with EPA to conduct removal actions that would accelerate the cleanup of the source area and the shallow ground water. The removal actions included capping of the former disposal area, stabilizing the bank of Dry Run Creek to prevent erosion at the site, operating a dual vapor extraction and treatment system that removed contaminants in the source area, and extracting and treating shallow ground water located north of Dry Run Creek. The primary contaminant at the site is trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical commonly used as a degreasing agent. 1,2-Dichloroethylene

and vinyl chloride are also present at the site.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA evaluated several alternatives for addressing the contaminated soil and ground water at the Ralston site. EPA's preferred method, which meets the requirements for overall protection of human health and the environment, consists of the following:

☐ Maintaining the institutional controls that are already in place at the site. These include:

- ★ Restricting access to the site;
- ★ Rockwell's continued ownership of 27.93 acres, which includes the former disposal area;
- ★ Continued listing of the site on the Registry of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance Disposal sites; and
- ★ Approval by state of Iowa authorities before any new wells can be installed near the site.

☐ Maintaining the cap over the disposal area and the work done to stabilize the bank of Dry Run Creek; and

☐ Monitored natural attenuation. Natural attenuation refers to the naturally occurring process in the environment that results in a decrease in the concentration of contaminants. It appears that subsurface conditions are favorable for natural attenuation to occur at the Ralston site. Ground water will be monitored periodically to ensure the concentration of contaminants is reduced below health-based levels outside the disposal area.

EPA's preferred alternative is estimated to cost approximately \$566,800 to implement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the Ralston site. A file containing site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review during normal business hours at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 1st Street, SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and at EPA Region 7.

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator,
Office of External Programs, EPA Region 7,
901 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Telephone: 1-913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
Fax: 1-913-551-7066, E-mail: huffman.diane@epa.gov